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KT photo | **Tim Bath**  
**Rob Burgess, Tribune night editor**

## **Tribune Tuesdays - Rob Burgess**

We write, design, sell and create every day at 300 N. Union St. But we have hobbies, habits and favorite hangouts, too! Here are our stories:

### **HELLO, MY NAME IS:**

Rob Burgess

### **DAY JOB:**

Kokomo Tribune night editor

### **LIVES TO: WRITE**

Writing is often the only way I can make sense of my thoughts about a particular subject sometimes," Burgess said about his passion for putting

words together. “Often I find when I’m writing about something I’m doing it as much for the reader as I am for myself.”

### **GENERATIONAL JOURNALIST:**

“For as long as I can remember I’ve been surrounded by journalism in one form or another. I’m the fourth generation in my family to work in newspapers. When I was growing up, my mother wrote a column for the Times-Mail in Bedford and was later the Lifestyle editor. I wrote for my school newspaper all four years of high school and was editor-in-chief my senior year,” Burgess, a Mitchell High School grad, said. “I recently found a paper I wrote in junior high where I was supposed to say what I wanted to be when I grew up. Guess what I wrote about.”

### **A STORYTELLER’S FAVORITE TALE:**

Burgess said his most cherished story was one that plowed deep into his emotions and gave him an incredible insight to the Jonestown Massacre with a CNN reporter.

“The [story] I always go back to is a story I wrote when I was a reporter at the Ukiah Daily Journal in Ukiah, Calif. It was based on an interview I conducted with Tracy Diaz (née Parks), one of the only survivors of the Jonestown Massacre in Guyana. For the 30th anniversary of the incident she traveled with CNN’s Soledad O’Brien back to the airstrip where she saw her mother shot to death in front of her as they tried to escape. During my

research, I went back and listened to the famous Death Tape which Jones made as more than 900 of his followers were either murdered or committed suicide,” Burgess said. “I went home and cried like a baby that night, but when the story came out I was incredibly proud of it.”

### **A COLLECTION OF CAREERS:**

Burgess may have been born for the news business, but he found some story-worthy stints along the way.

“I’ve been a camp counselor, janitor, office gofer, call center representative, teacher, driver of de-icing truck at the airport, reporter, television producer — you name it. I can tell you this is absolutely one of the best jobs I’ve ever had out of any of them,” Burgess said before explaining his life has come full circle and he landed in the career destination that’s right for him.

“Work-wise the chaos of the newsroom environment is where I feel most at home.”